

17th August, written upon bearing from M^r. Alexandre d Rochefoucauld, his Ambassador in Holland, and from brother himself, the opposition of Louis to his project. The letter was as follows : —

BROTHER — I have received your letter relating to that of the Sieur la Rochefoucauld. He was only authorized to make, the proposal* directly. Since the exchange does not please you let us think no more about it. It was useless to make a parade of principles, though I have said that you ought not to consult the nation. The well-informed people the Dutch people had already acknowledged their indifference to that of Brabant, which is connected with France rather than with Holland; and interspersed with expensive fortresses; it might have been easily exchanged for the northern provinces, I repeat, once for all, so you do not like this arrangement, let me no more hear about it. It is useless even to mention it to me, for the Sieur de la Rochefoucauld instructed merely to hint the matter.

Though ill humor here evidently peeps out beneath affected condescension, yet the tone of this letter is singularly in character, — I may even say kind, in comparison with others which Napoleon addressed to Louis. This letter, it is true, was written previously to the interview at Erfurt, when Napoleon, to avoid alarming Russia, made his ambition appear to slumber. But when he got his brother Joseph involved; when he had himself struck an important blow in the IVu sula, he began to change his tone to Louis. On the 17th December 1809; wrote* a very remarkable letter, which exhibits the unreserved expression of that tyranny which he wished to exercise over all his family in order to make them the instruments of his despotism. He reproached Louis for not following his system of policy, telling him that he had formerly been a Frenchman, and that, he wished to become a Dutchman. • other things he said :~

Your Majesty has done more: you took advantage of that moment when I was involved in the affairs of the Continent to renew the relations between Holland and England — to violate the laws of the Netherlands, the only means of effectually depriving the latter power. I have my satisfaction in forbidding you to come near France and I hope in; you find that even without the assistance of my allies, I may merely elude the line, the Weser, the Scheldt, and the Meuse against you. Had I should have placed her in a situation more critical than if I had deela